

Illinois Early Learning Council
Family and Community Engagement Meeting
October 3, 2014 1 pm – 3pm
Illinois Action for Children
4753 N Broadway, Chicago, IL 60604

Committee and Subcommittee co-chairs:

Maria Whelan (IAFC), **George Davis** (City of Rockford Human Services), **Carie Bires** (Ounce), **Leah Pouw** (IAFC), **Granada Williams** (CEDA), **Choua Vue** (IAFC), **Elisa Westapher** (National Association of Charter School Authorizers)

Meeting Participants:

George Davis, Scott Kibler, Carie Bires, Alli Lowe-Fotos, Leah Pouw, Renee Tetrick, Mario Garcia, Aminah Wyatt-Jones, TeeNeka Jones-Gueye, Granada Williams, Adrienne Stewart, Choua Vue, Bernard Cesarone, Dawn Thomas, Juliet Bromer, Christy Serrano, Kathy Villano, Vicki Hodges, Donna Emmons, Kelly Rauscher, Shauna Ejeh, Sergio Hernandez, Madelyn James, Maria Kontoudakis, Bob Cammarata, Reyna Hernandez, Becky McBroom, Joy Bah, Letitia Parker, Jose Cerda, Gloria Harris, Veronica Mercado, Loukisha Smart-Pennix

I. Welcome and Introductions

- a. Approved minutes from July 30, 2014

II. Discussion

a. Overview of FCE Strategic Planning Process...

Summarized recent ELC Executive Committee conversations with Grand Victoria Foundation. Next steps, the ELC Executive Committee will propose to organize ELC work across 3 broad goals:

1. Continue to prioritize serving the most at risk children
2. Leverage and sustain current federal opportunities to have maximum impact on Illinois' birth-to-five system
3. Create an action plan designed to ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of the ELC over the long term

Co-chairs discussed that this provides a timely opportunity for FCE Committee to continue a deep dive into Committee priorities, with emphasis on tying plans to broader ELC priorities.

b. FY15 Subcommittee Goals...

In lieu of confirming official "goals", co-chairs presented the Nine "Areas of Inquiry" brainstormed during the 9/16 and 9/23 Subcommittee meetings:

1. Increase opportunities for Technical Assistance (ex: EHS/CCP); providing support to the programs that are serving high-need populations.
2. Resume data scan with focus on seeing where our priority populations are in the system; deep dive into Hard to Reach report/statewide data

3. Provide feedback on weighted eligibility criteria; emphasize opportunities for local input, driven by AFS members
4. Institute regular presentations to AFS, by AFS members, on specific projects and topics; facilitating community of learners
5. Engage other systems outside Early Childhood, focus on the systems that our priority populations interact with such as child welfare
6. Work on different documents that would be useful for the field such as a document on best practices for promising family engagement that may be useful for Awards of Excellence and/or ExceleRate Illinois.
7. Create a “toolbox” of family and community engagement resources that are useful for providers – potentially host on ExceleRate Illinois.
8. Community engagement – what are the best practices? Create a document on this topic.
9. Looking at “Outcomes” – identifying how to document the informal engagement strategies that are meaningful for families.

FCE member feedback: Members discussed what’s missing, if particular areas are not represented, etc.

- Consider clustering 9 areas. For example, one cluster could be “providing resources”
- Important addition to the topic list are doing “resource scans” of communities
 - Better understand what resources are being identified; Need to find ways that local groups can access this information; Pursue this in spirit of Statewide Database Project
 - Utilize FCE members; draw on our group expertise as peer-to-peer TA, an “in-person database”
 - Increasing interest in identifying geographically-based resources
- For all of the proposed areas of inquiry, FCE should consider marketability, accessibility to parents, community members, and general public
- Training/TA
 - Interest in creating networks of directors, (person-to-person or virtual), to serve an informational purpose
 - Need to support both formal and informal networks, important to measure effectiveness, identify how to support both approaches
- Will be important to continue exploring what’s existing before duplicating (ex: INCCRRA, IECAM)
- How does FCE facilitate opportunities for local input?
 - One opportunity is the “Voices from the Field” section of Principles/Practices Subcommittee report on FCE best practices (Juliet Bromer will present report at upcoming FCE meeting).
 - a. Utilize vignettes from community focus groups, communicate in parent-provider own words, not technical language
- Connecting with Higher Education, especially Community colleges:
 - How to inform colleges about the strategies/practices that early childhood needs, especially regarding engaging parents and community resources; how do students get pre-service training, skills specific to family/community engagement work
- Consider supporting INCCRRA’s new Family Credential; as roll out begins, assess to what extent it addresses family/community engagement best practices and training needs

c. **FY15 Meeting Schedule...**

- Discussed how meeting time and location inhibits attendance of non-Cook county members
- Proposed hosting a Spring 2015 meeting at: 1) IAFC's Homewood office, 2) INCCRRA's Bloomington office, 3) DePaul Naperville Campus
- Discussed exploring conferencing technology. IAFC has GoTo Meeting software.
- Voted to hold upcoming **2015 Full FCE meetings from 11am-1pm** (Jan 7th, April 7th, July 15th)
- Agreed to continue holding AFS/PP Subcommittee meetings from 10am-noon
- Updated calendar invites will be sent to reflect time changes

d. **Membership expertise, recruitment, guest speakers...**

- Tabled this discussion for November Subcommittee meetings

III. **Early Learning Council Updates**

a. ELC Executive Committee:

- Previous meeting focused on Pre-K Expansion Grants

b. Data, Research, and Evaluation (DRE) Committee: Research Agenda Proposal

- Dawn Thomas and Bernard Cesarone presented overview of the following 8 key areas of inquiry:
 1. Program Access
 2. Program Impact
 3. Program Quality
 4. Program Characteristics
 5. Program Funding
 6. Early Care and Education Workforce
 7. Family Supports and Service Alignment
 8. Cross-System Collaboration
- FCE member feedback included:
 - For Area #1 and #2, look at research questions that consider impact on family unit, not just children (as currently phrased)
 - Lots of potential for research health-related issues in connection to school absenteeism
 - Look at attendance differences between programs; how does it differ by program model, dosage, mobility, funding source, service delivery?
 - Are the same clusters of families experiencing health risks in prenatal/early stages, the same children at age 8 experiencing attendance issues?
 - How do homeless children fit into these discussions?
 - For Area #4, important to also as "Why" questions
 - For ex: not simply enough to ask "What curriculums are used by programs" but also should inquire "Why do programs use certain curriculums"
 - For Areas #7 and #8, kudos to DRE Committee for including these categories
 - Across all research areas, need to explicitly name Family Friend Neighbor Care and Family Child Care. Easy to only think of center-based providers in research context.

IV. State Agency Updates

a. Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE)

- Completing preparations for Preschool Development Grant; with OECD, seek increases in state funding for Early Childhood Development Block Grant; presented at [September ISBE Board Meeting, p 268-275](http://isbe.net/board/meetings/2014/sep/packet.pdf), <http://isbe.net/board/meetings/2014/sep/packet.pdf>
(Excerpt emailed to FCE members)
- Institute for Educational Leadership: IL is hosting the 2nd Annual Family Engagement Conference (June 22-24, Palmer House Hilton, Chicago). For more information, see www.illinoisparents.org. The planning group is open to feedback about how/what we could benefit from hosting a national conference of this scale.
 - a. Could be good opportunity to roll out
 - i. ISBE Family Engagement Framework,
 - ii. Governor's Award of Excellence FCE discussions/recommendations
 - iii. Family Provider Relationships Quality Measure (FPRQM): a publicly available tool designed to capture/measure the relational aspects that underlie and precede provider—family/community engagement
- KIDS/Kindergarten Entry Assessment: aggressive expansion underway, goal is to have kindergarten student be assessed by this time next year

V. Local Agency Updates

a. Chicago Public Schools (CPS)

- Fully enrolled, but will continue ongoing recruitment/enrollment
- Added some full day programs in high needs areas of the city
- Attendance: working with COFI and McCormick Tribune on a pilot focused on Pre-K chronic absenteeism. Also engaging with teachers, principals, and K-8 staff because Pre-K attendance can be tied to older sibling's absenteeism

VI. Next Steps/ Upcoming Meetings

- See attached page "FY15 Meeting Calendar"

FY15 Meeting Calendar
(Revised at October 3, 2014 FCE meeting)

Full FCE Committee

11 am – 1 pm

- January 7th 2015 (Wed)
- April 7th 2015 (Tues)
- July 15th 2015 (Wed)

All Families Served Subcommittee

10 am – noon

- November 20th 2014 (Thurs)
- February 3rd 2015 (Tues)
- May 12th 2015 (Tues)

Principles & Practices Subcommittee

10 am – noon

- November 18th 2014 (Tues)
- February 5th 2015 (Thurs)
- May 14th 2015 (Thurs)